

AA0006149769



UC SOUTHERN REGIONAL LIBRARY FACILITY

FROM A LONDON  
GARDEN

—  
A. ST. JOHN ADCOCK

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
RIVERSIDE

*Ex Libris*

ISAAC FOOT





Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2008 with funding from  
Microsoft Corporation

FROM A LONDON GARDEN



FROM A  
LONDON GARDEN

BY  
*Arthur*  
A. ST. JOHN ADCOCK  
'''



LONDON: DAVID NUTT  
57-59 LONG ACRE  
1903

PR 6001

D32F7



NOTE.—*These verses have appeared in the 'Spectator,' 'Outlook,' 'Chambers's Journal,' 'Literary World,' 'Week's Survey,' 'Pilot,' &c.*



## CONTENTS

	PAGE
TRANSFIGURED . . . . .	1
THE EARTH-BOND . . . . .	3
THE PRIDE OF LAZARUS . . . . .	5
MANHOOD . . . . .	7
WAGES . . . . .	9
LIFE AND TIME . . . . .	11
GROWTH . . . . .	14
THE DAY BEYOND . . . . .	16
THE CITY ASLEEP . . . . .	18
LOVE'S REASON . . . . .	21
THR FORERUNNER . . . . .	23
THE SICK MAN'S DREAM . . . . .	25
CHARLES LAMB AT ENFIELD . . . . .	28
THE CROWN OF FAILURE . . . . .	31
AT PARTING . . . . .	33
THRENOS . . . . .	36
UNHONOURED WORK . . . . .	38
OUTSIDE THE CHURCH . . . . .	40
UNKNOWN KNOWLEDGE . . . . .	41

	PAGE
THE LAST DAWN . . . . .	44
A FORLORN HOPE . . . . .	45
THE CUPBEARER . . . . .	46
A DEAD FRIENDSHIP . . . . .	48
THE WIDER VIEW . . . . .	51
UNTIL THE EVENING . . . . .	53
AFTER PARTING . . . . .	55
THE GUEST . . . . .	57
THE DREAMER . . . . .	59
ENOUGH . . . . .	63
LIGHT . . . . .	65
A SONG OF SHADOWS . . . . .	66
RECOMPENSE . . . . .	68
THE HAUNTED CITY . . . . .	69
RETURNING . . . . .	71
'TWIXT DAWN AND DAY . . . . .	73
UNFORGOTTEN . . . . .	75
A LAST TRIBUTE . . . . .	76
YOUTH . . . . .	78

## TRANSFIGURED

Love took the sordid clay  
And pierced its grossness as with lustral fire,  
Fashioned a spirit from the common earth,  
And crowned him lord and king with tears and  
mirth :

Love took the sordid clay  
And shaped it to the god of her desire.

Then, ere he could resign  
His white divinity and fall away  
From that ineffable, ideal height  
Whereto he had been lifted by Love's might  
Ere he could so resign  
His godhead and return again to clay,

Death took the god of Love—  
The god that was but man ashine with gleams  
From inner fires that Love's own hands supplied—  
And made him deathless who might else have died:  
Death took the god of Love  
And throned him in the heaven of her dreams.

## THE EARTH-BOND

SURELY both earth and heaven are God's; and so

He will not count it sin if I should love

More than the unknown heaven above

His dear earth that I know.

Meadow and sea and sky, and storm and shine,

Glad voices that from croft and coppice call,

The city loud with life, and all

Of mortal and divine

That make this earth akin to you and me,

Partner in hopes we live by or regret—

Dear are they all, and dearer yet

Some human two or three.

So that, as one in sleep may leave his bed  
And, blindly drawn to haunts he loved by day,  
Walk through an old familiar way  
With sure, unconscious tread,

In the last sleep, if I should dream and do  
Even as thus some living sleeper might,  
I shall stray, ghost-like, in the night  
Home to the earth I knew.



## THE PRIDE OF LAZARUS

LORD, I am poor and desolate !  
The beggars at Thy outer gate,  
Who cringe to purse-proud passers-by,  
Are not more desolate than I.

The rich and proud have passed me there  
And gone into Thy House of Prayer,  
But I have stretched no pleading palms  
To ask their pity or their alms.

And now, before the prayers begin,  
I too, O Lord, will enter in  
With heart elate, to praise and pray,  
As thankful and as blest as they.

They praise Thee in communion sweet  
For silks they wear and flesh they eat ;  
They thank Thee that Thou dost not flout  
And leave them as the poor without.

I praise Thee that, for all my cares,  
I have a pride that laughs at theirs ;  
I thank Thee that, though frail I be,  
My strength has bowed to none but Thee.

Curse me, O Lord, with want and ill,  
But make my spirit strong, and still  
Give me, whate'er Thy hand denies,  
A soul no swine-trough satisfies.

## MANHOOD

Not till life's heat has cooled,  
The headlong rush slowed to a quiet pace,  
And every purblind passion that had ruled  
Our noisier years, at last,  
Spurs us in vain, and, weary of the race,  
We care no more who loses or who wins—  
Ah! not till all the best of life seems past  
The best of life begins.

To toil for only fame,  
Hand-clappings and the fickle gusts of praise,  
For place or power or gold to gild a name  
Above the grave whereto

All paths will bring us, were to lose our days,  
We on whose ears youth's passing bell has tolled,  
In blowing bubbles even as children do,  
    Forgetting we grow old.

    But the world widens when  
Such hope of trivial gain that ruled us lies  
    Broken among our childhood's toys, for then  
    We win to self-control  
And mail ourselves in manhood, and there rise  
Upon us from the vast and windless height  
Those clearer thoughts that are unto the soul  
    What stars are to the night.

## WAGES

I'D have you love me, yet your love should be  
    A virtue less in you than me ;  
I would not have folk say, " With what a meek  
Most patient strength she bears with all his weak  
And childish sins, his follies mean and wild !  
She loves him as we love a wayward child,  
Loves him for very pity, even, methinks,  
    As God loves us."  
    Ah, stoop not to me thus !  
For love so given poisons him that drinks.  
  
If, when you look into my life, you see  
    No worth that you can love in me ;  
If, being very human, I am prone  
To ways that are less heavenly than your own ;

If I have fall'n from your ideal height  
—Then do not love me in my own despite,  
Make me no halting beggar at Love's gate  
    Loved, as such are,  
    For God's sake ; rather far  
Think I at least am worthy of your hate.

Love me, dear heart, if thus it may befall,  
    For my own sake—or not at all.  
Love me for what I am ; or, if not so,  
For what I am hate me and let me go ;  
Dole me no humbling charity, nor turn  
Unjustly from me—pay but what I earn,  
That unashamed and man-like I may live  
    And know, elate,  
    That be it love or hate,  
At least you think me worthy what you give.

## LIFE AND TIME

TIME sits in silence, patient at his loom,  
And throws untired his shuttles of moon and sun,  
And weaves with flying strands of dark and light,  
And weaves again for ever, as it wanes,  
His pageant of the living hours that die—  
Night treading lonely through a land of sleep ;  
Dawn that has dreams of Night within her eyes ;  
Day with the bloom of Morning on her cheeks ;  
Day flushed from labours in the stress of Noon ;  
And Eve whose eyes are sad with dreams of Day.

And circling in the dazzle and the dark,  
In all the ever fading, growing gloom  
And glory, swings the clamorous world of men :

Clamour of Peace, who sows her happy fields  
Or feasts with all her sons at harvest-home ;  
Of War, that wields his lightnings like a god  
And thunders god-like from his clouds, and swirls  
His red rain on the fields that Peace has sown ;  
Of Joy, who brims his cup and shouts his songs,  
Exultant in a bubble-heaven that bursts ;  
Of Death, who snows his winter where he will,  
And walks amid a wailing as of winds ;  
Of Hope who, blinded by his first sun-rise,  
Waits for the slow to-morrow and dies to-day ;  
Of Love, whose earth and hell and heaven are one ;  
Of Loss, that whimpers at the heels of Love ;  
Of Pity, and Hate, of Anguish, and Despair—

Clamour of all the voices of the world  
Moan to him like a murmur of his loom,  
But heedless whether men may laugh or weep,  
And careless ever though they live or die,  
Time sits in silence at his spanless web



And throws untired his shuttles of moon and sun  
And weaves anew his pageant as it wanes—  
Dawn that has dreams of Night within her eyes ;  
Day with the bloom of Morning on her cheeks ;  
Day flushed from labours in the stress of Noon ;  
And Eve whose eyes are dim with dreams of Day ;  
And Night who loiters saddening still for Dawn.

## GROWTH

BLOW, winds, your rage but shakes the tree  
    And roots it surer in its place !  
Scatter your rain, ye clouds, and free  
    The buds that wait your frowning grace !  
Roll down, O river, to the sea,  
    And widen in your onward race !

Peace through a sunny span may keep  
    His garden in some quiet glen,  
Whilst others sow for him, and reap,  
    And tend his flocks on moor and fen :  
The flowers of Peace are death and sleep ;  
    The strife of living makes us men.

Ah, joy it is to win the goal  
By tireless work and dauntless will,  
Yet may the life rise orb'd and whole  
From clouded hopes, and loss, and ill :  
Our baffled toils upbuild the soul,  
And failure so is victory still.

## THE DAY BEYOND

WHEN youth is with us, all things seem  
But lightly to be wished and won ;  
We snare to-morrow in a dream,  
And take our toll for work undone ;  
“ For life is long and time a stream  
That sleeps and sparkles in the sun—  
What need of any haste ? ” we say,  
“ To-morrow’s longer than to-day.”

And when to-morrow shall destroy  
The heaven of our dreams, in vain  
Our hurrying manhood we employ  
To build the vanished bliss again ;

We have no leisure to enjoy,  
    “ So few the years that yet remain,  
So much to do, and ah !” we say,  
“ To-morrow’s shorter than to-day.”

But when our hands are worn and weak,  
    And still our labours seem unblest,  
And time goes past us like a bleak  
    Last twilight waning to the west,  
“ It is not here—the bliss we seek,  
    Too brief is life for happy rest ;  
What need of any haste ?” we say,  
“ To-morrow’s longer than to-day.”

## THE CITY ASLEEP

DARKLY, under a drifting moon,  
The streets lie empty of sound and life ;  
Dawn of to-morrow come not soon !  
Silent afar is yesterday's noon,  
And the city forgets its sorrow and strife :  
Oh, weary eyes and hearts that ache,  
Sleep!—it is better to sleep than wake.

Here, where all day the air was loud  
With a rattle of carts and jingle of cars  
And the murmur and laughter and tread of the  
crowd,  
Are only the ruts that the wheels have ploughed,  
And rails that gleam with a glint of the stars,

And dreaming streets that the crowd forsake :  
Sleep!—it is better to sleep than wake.

Toil and care to the day belong ;

To-morrow their tears shall fall again,  
But now for a little the weak are strong ;  
Sleep knows nothing of right or wrong,

To-night feels naught of to-morrow's pain.  
Sleep has a cup all thirst to slake :  
Sleep!—it is better to sleep than wake.

Bare little feet grown hard on the stones,

Gaunt little hands that work has worn—  
Oh, children, whom man enslaves or disowns,  
Christ in His heaven has heard your moans

And touched you with happy death till morn.  
Children, to-morrow your hearts shall ache :  
Sleep!—it is better to sleep than wake.

Sorrow and sin crouch side by side,

Stived in their slum as swine in their pen ;

Sin?—is it sorrow too sorely tried?

A birth of the ashes where hope has died?

Weary and outcast women and men,  
Is it God that mars what His own hands make?  
Sleep!—it is better to sleep than wake.

Wealth that dwells on the heights serene,

Virtue a-dream in your blissful bower,  
With the blood of the poor are your walls unclean,  
Your pleasures are dredged from their woes obscene;  
Could ye smell the filth of the root in the flower,  
What joy in the scent thereof would ye take?  
Sleep!—it is better to sleep than wake.

Palace and hovel, the prince and the throng,

Are one in sleep 'neath the drifting moon;  
Now for a little the weak are strong,  
Sleep knows nothing of right or wrong:  
Dawn of to-morrow, come not soon!  
Eyes that are tearless and hearts that break,  
Sleep!—it is better to sleep than wake.



## LOVE'S REASON

WHAT makes me love you?—Well,  
In truth, I cannot tell!

I love, but know not why—

I only know I do,  
And shall while I am I

And you are you.

It is your voice, maybe,  
That draws the heart from me  
And makes it yours alone :

Your voice it is—yet, nay,  
'Tis not so much your tone  
As what you say.

Perhaps it is your rare  
And winsome, happy air,  
Your eyes of sunny blue,  
    Your silvery laughter glad—  
And yet, I love you too  
    When you are sad.

Though sweet your voice, and sweet  
Your words be, when we meet,  
And sweet the changeful light  
    Your heaven-deep eyes disclose—  
I do not love you quite  
    For these or those.

I love you—yet I try  
In vain to tell you why !  
I love you by no laws  
    Men know or ever knew,  
But just, I think, because  
    You're simply—you !

## THE FORERUNNER

A WIND out of heaven o'er holt and lea  
Blows the dead ashes of life to a blaze,  
And little green flames on hedge and tree  
Flicker and shine through the lengthening days.  
Summer is coming! The sound of her name  
Gives sight to the blind and a voice to the dumb;  
Spring is setting the green little buds aflame  
To light the way she will come.

And down through the city, by shop and mart,  
An Angel passes with hushed footfall—  
His coming gladdens the wistful heart  
Of a caged thrush hung on an outer wall,

And it sings till the spell of its rapturous song  
    Brings the field to its bars, and below in the  
        street  
Hearing, and mocked with remembrance, the  
    throng  
    Feel the grass under their feet.

To a touch of the sunlight Death unlocks  
    His doors, and with laughter Life returns ;  
In high-walled garden, and window-box,  
    In square and byway glimmers and burns  
Blossom and leaf, as a happier thought  
    Lights eyes that were sad, for each dull city place  
Thrilled as the Angel went past it, and caught  
    The look that flashed from his face.

## THE SICK MAN'S DREAM

AND there before me flashed a morning gleam  
    (It was not like a dream),  
A dazzle of light that overflowed the sky  
    And filled the sea ; and I,  
A city-toiler fallen in the strife  
    That I could wage no more,  
I seemed the wreck and remnant of a life  
    The sea had cast ashore.

Oh but to lie upon those sun-kissed sands  
    With idle, restful hands,  
To feel the freshening wind, to hear the sea  
    Whisper and call to me,

Was as though heaven had dawned on earth at last,  
Or I to heaven were brought ;  
The city here, my life of all the past,  
Dwindled to but a thought.

There in the streets, I thought, the dull day long  
The busy workers throng,  
Whilst I . . . The waves broke nearer and more  
near,  
And still I had no fear ;  
I yearned to feel the cool bright waters sweep  
Above me, hushed and high,  
For when I gazed I saw in all the deep  
Only another sky.

. . . Then something stirred ; or was it you that  
spoke ?  
I started, and awoke,  
And lo ! my hands lay white and wasted yet  
On the white coverlet ;

And here, about me still, this silent room,  
The shaded lamp, the red  
Quick fire-flame darting lightnings through the  
gloom—  
And you beside my bed.

As stars at dawn, the dreams that fill the dark  
Wane when we waken . . . Hark !  
Is it the wind among the garden trees,  
That voice so like the sea's?—  
Listen ! . . . I have not dreamed. Oh restful  
bliss !  
The great sea calls me now . . .  
These are its winds that cool my lips, and this  
Its spray upon my brow.

## CHARLES LAMB AT ENFIELD

(“Yet in this self-condemned obliviousness, in the stagnation, some molesting yearnings of life, not quite killed, rise prompting me that there was a London, and that I was of that old Jerusalem. In dreams I am in Fleet Market, but I wake, and cry to sleep again.”—Lamb to Wordsworth, 1830.)

THOUGH yet no blossom stars the hedge, nor light  
Of daisies twinkles from the barren lawn,  
Here is no death, for, like the sun by night,  
Spring waits below the earth her hour of dawn.

But cold to this mute life that never dies,  
This dull, indifferent Nature old and dread,  
Under these leafless boughs and alien skies  
I wander ghost-like from a life that's dead :



That's dead to me, self-banished from the ways  
Whose walls hold all of heaven I have known,  
Whose phantoms haunt me through my nights and  
days  
With unforgotten touch, and look, and tone.

I tread no more the city that I love,  
And though its far-off streets be peopled yet  
And roofed with their grey slips of sky above,  
For me they only live in my regret—

Those roaring streets that glared in sunny noons,  
And gloomed in lamp-lit eves of plashy rain,  
Or slept enchanted under dreamful moons—  
Their life goes on without me ; and in vain

I strive elsewhere to gather aught of good,  
To quite forget them dwelling here apart,  
I cannot make them strangers if I would,  
Nor close my ears against them, nor my heart :

Old echoes from the very stones I trod  
    Call to me with a human voice, and then  
I sadden in these lonely fields of God,  
    Grown home-sick for the crowded world of men.

## THE CROWN OF FAILURE

WHEN you have lived your life,  
When you have fought your last good fight and won,  
And the day's work is finished, and the sun

Sets on your darkening world and all its strife—  
Ere the worn hands are tired with all they've done,  
Ere the mind's strength begins to droop and wane,  
Ere the first touch of sleep has dulled the brain,  
Ere the heart's springs are slow and running dry—

When you have lived your life,  
'Twere good to die.

If it may not be so,  
If you but fight a fight you may not win,  
See the far goal but may not enter in,

'Twere better then to die and not to know

Defeat—to die amid the rush and din,  
Still striving, while the heart beats high and fast  
With glorious life : if you must fail, at last,  
Such end were best, with all your hope and all  
    Your spirit in its youth,  
Then, when you fall.

Far better so to die,  
Still toiling upwards through the mists obscure,  
With all things possible and nothing sure,  
    Than to be touched by glory and passed by,  
To win, by chance, fame that may not endure,  
That dies and leaves you living, while you strive  
With wasted breath to keep its flame alive,  
And fan, with empty boasts and proud regrets,  
    Remembrance of a name  
The world forgets.

## AT PARTING

So, with a last good-bye,  
In this grey hour you die  
To us, as we to you ;  
Parting is dying too,  
And distance, heart to heart despairing saith,  
Is but a name for Death.

To-morrow we shall say,  
“ Our thoughts reflect, to-day,  
His quiet room upstairs,  
The lonely look it wears  
For all the house is desolate and dim  
With want of only him.”

What household things shall stand,  
Hallowed, because your hand  
Has touched them ! We shall miss  
Your help in that or this,  
And treasure even trivial words you said  
As memories of the dead.

You will bear with you thus  
Remembrances of us ;  
And, writing now and then  
Of stranger lands and men,  
Your tidings from afar shall reach us here  
As from another sphere :

Just as if you, at last,  
That greater sea had passed  
Whose winds and waters yearn  
Outwards, and never turn,  
And, looking through the waste of silence lone,  
You called from the Unknown.

Even Death is nothing more  
Than opening of a door  
Through which men pass away  
As stars into the day,  
And we, who see not, blinded by the light,  
Cry, "They are lost in Night !"

Thus ever, near or far,  
Life seems but where we are ;  
Yet those we bid Good-bye  
Find Death is not to die,  
As you, departing from our daily strife,  
Go hence from Life to Life.

Clasp hands, and now Farewell !  
The word's a passing knell,  
But ripening year by year  
Life triumphs there as here,  
Nor dark nor silent would the distance be  
Could we but hear and see.

## THRENOS

THERE is nothing so beautiful now  
As it used to be,  
Something has gone from the grass,  
And the flower, and the tree,  
Something, O thou who art gone !  
That faded with thee,  
And there's nothing so beautiful now  
As it used to be.

Youth, with its faith in the world  
And its dreams divine,  
Youth, that is filled with delight  
As the grape with wine,



Youth, like the moon from the night,  
Has gone from me,  
And there's nothing so beautiful now  
As it used to be.

A glory has passed from the sky,  
And a joy from earth ;  
There are tears in the music that once  
Spoke only of mirth ;  
I know there is death in the world  
Under all that I see,  
And there's nothing so beautiful now  
As it used to be.

## UNHONOURED WORK

So that no day from dawn to darkness stands,  
Then passes from your door with empty hands,  
What though the world should grant you no acclaim?  
The worth of what is done is still the same.

Men sought of old a wand that would invoke  
Desire's fulfilment by a single stroke,  
A magic Sesame, some potent word  
That Fortune needs must yield to when she heard.

But never thus are any wonders wrought,  
Save in the happy fairy-realm of thought,  
Here, where no harvest crowns the field unsown,  
Nor word nor wand avails, but work alone.

Strength builds in silence. Lo ! without a sound,  
Or on the heights or in the deeps profound,  
All Nature toils with mightier arts than ours,  
And only man is clamorous of his powers.

His work fulfils its purpose, high or low,  
But he, not great enough to leave it so,  
Stoops from his loftiest labour and delays  
For some poor guerdon of his fellows' praise,

Yet sees the little worth of such a prize,  
What folly wears the honours of the wise,  
What tinsel passes current for pure gold,  
What juggling for a marvel, while, behold !—

The shining worlds of heaven, the growth of earth  
Through every mystic change of death and birth—  
Coming and going with a noiseless pace,  
The miracles of God seem commonplace.

## OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

I PASSED without, what time the organ pealed  
The last high rapture of a stately hymn,  
And lingering where upon the twilight dim  
The storied windows, rich with warmth, revealed  
A pitying Christ 'mid humble shapes that kneeled,  
Heard the punctilious Priest intone a grim  
Creed-curse of some dead, earthly sanhedrim,  
As if it opened all that God has sealed.

Not mine that perfect faith which strangely sooths  
The world's disquiet where it enters in,  
And yet I bear, through every night of doubt,  
A heart of hope made glad by simple truths :  
No door, O Priest ! shuts all God's light within,  
His stars are with me in the dark without.

## UNKNOWN KNOWLEDGE

O, SOUL that seest far off the light  
That is not seen of human sight,  
That knowest truths of God begot  
And how thou knowest knowest not !

We know not what to hope or fear :  
Thou speakest, but we do not hear,  
Or hearing some low-whispered word,  
But half believe that we have heard.

For while to us the old is new,  
And youth has all its work to do,  
And o'er us rear the heights sublime  
That we have set ourselves to climb,

While the quick brain has thronging dreams  
And spins its airy-threaded schemes  
To catch the great world's tardy praise  
And glorify inglorious days—

Through all the hurrying toil and strife,  
The uproar of this sordid life  
In which we sorrow and rejoice,  
O soul, how can we hear thy voice?

But when the heat of strife is past  
And quiet folds us round at last,  
And all our unaccomplished schemes  
Are dimmer than remembered dreams,

When deaf ambition's restless will  
Is either satisfied or still,  
And tides that rose in stormy rage  
Ebb calmly from the shores of age—

O soul ! in some such quiet lain  
We'll listen for thy voice again,  
Our hearts by time made wise and meek,  
And in the silence hear thee speak.

And listening thus and hearing thee  
The light thou seest we shall see,  
Shall know what thou for many a year  
Wert saying when we could not hear,

And find the truth for which we yearn,  
Which seems so dark and hard to learn,  
A clear and simple thing that, lo !  
We always knew, and did not know.

## THE LAST DAWN

FROM my window fades, like a blur of the breath,  
The passing shadow of Night,  
And Dawn looks in with the face of Death,  
Silent, and cold, and white :

As at last, when the last night's silence shall break  
And the darkness rolls away,  
The eyes that were sleeping shall see when they  
wake  
Death with the face of Day.



## A FORLORN HOPE

LEST you should feel  
That I am all unworthy of your grace,  
I set me in your presence to reveal  
Whate'er of good within my heart hath place.

Lest you should then  
Love me too well at first, and then despise—  
Finding I am but weak as other men—  
I do not hide my folly from your eyes.

Mask'd with no sham,  
When thus my strivings and my sins you see,  
Although you cannot love the man I am,  
You yet may love the man I strive to be.

## THE CUPBEARER

THE beauty of the world but runs to waste,  
For sunrise after sunrise comes and goes  
And leaves no trace of all its splendour gone,  
And sunset after sunset, like the sea  
We cross in dreams to reach the gates of God,  
Ebbs far and farther, and is seen no more ;  
Night through her billowy clouds upswings the  
    moon  
And blurs the dark with flying mists of light,  
Or bares her fathomless deeps of slumbrous calm  
And silent hollows pebbled thick with stars,  
But fades and is forgotten of the day ;  
And love and hope and joy and youth, and all  
The bloom of life and sweetness of the year

Flows past us ever to its bourne of death,  
Sings like a stream adown its sunny hill  
And sighs through sunless places of the vale,  
Its depths and shallows glimmering strangely flecked  
With shadowed gloom and glory of earth and heaven,  
Slips from our touch and flashes out of sight.

And even as it passes and is lost—  
Ere yet it spills into the sunset sea  
That far-off murmurs by the gates of God—  
The immortal Hebe captive among men,  
Art dips her golden cup into the stream  
And lifts the living water to our lips  
That we may taste how sweet is all we lose.

## A DEAD FRIENDSHIP

THERE is no more to say ;  
Some bitterness of thought is left unsaid  
And broods within the heart and will not go,  
But leave it thus untold to fade away,  
And give no life to what is better dead :  
Each knows the other knows it ; leave it so.

Henceforward we may meet  
With knowledge of each other, but not love ;  
Here for the last time we shake hands and  
part ;  
Our love has waned, our faith grown incomplete ;  
Which is at fault we may not hope to prove,  
For each acquits himself to his own heart.

Ah! friendship has its spring

Like all things else, its growth and its decay :

It may not last, its summer is not long ;

When it is dead and ended, shall we bring

But bitter words unto its grave, and say :

Thus did thou wrong me ! Thus thou did'st  
me wrong !

Nay, hush ! let us forget.

What profit is it to remember all ?

Let us remember only what was best.

Things that are bitter, things that pain and fret,

Ill-thoughts we may regret but not recall,

Let them be all forgotten unexpressed.

And I will think that you

Died with your hand in mine, one summer when

No shadow of this sadder time to be

Clouded those sunny days our friendship knew,

That thus, ere life grew sad, and even then,

You died.—I ask you to think thus of me.

So each, perhaps, may keep  
Remembrance as of one he used to know,  
A dear, dead friend he ne'er again shall meet,  
And ne'er forget ; forgetfulness shall heap  
Its dust on all but that, and we may grow  
To find in such remembrance something  
sweet.

## THE WIDER VIEW

NAY, if your friend should prove

A secret foe,

And where you sowed your love

No love should grow ;

If when your hope had end,

One smiled thereat,

One promised to befriend

And then forgot—

You may not judge the world by this man or by  
that.

What though to-day the ways

Are chill with sleet ?

The year has many days,

And some are sweet ;

And while the world no less  
    Within its span  
Hath still one heart to bless  
    For two that ban,  
You need but lose your faith in men, and not in  
    man.



## UNTIL THE EVENING

Tired with the daily toil for daily bread,  
The spirit slaving for the body's needs,  
The brain and nerve are dulled, and the heart  
bleeds

And breaks with grief of brooding thought unsaid :  
Were we but born to labour and be fed ?

To spend our souls in lowly, trivial deeds,  
Mere sordid coin the guerdon God concedes ?  
Ah, yet press on though with a fainting tread—

Till evening ends our work and stills our cries :  
Then we may find our lowness is our height,

Our crown the tasks we wrought with sobbing  
breath ;  
As common things a sunset glorifies,  
This life, at last, may robe itself in light  
And stand transfigured at the touch of Death.

## AFTER PARTING

WHEN the sun sets,  
And I am tired of work and fall asleep,  
And may no longer weep  
For any old regrets,  
Haply I still shall dream of what was best  
On earth, and so have heaven in happy rest.

And surely then  
My wistful feet shall often find a way,  
Unlit of any day,  
Back to this world of men—  
Back through the shadowy land of dreams, afar  
To this dear world where you that love me are.

Until, at last,  
Your day is ended also, and you pace  
That same dim land, and trace  
My footprints where I passed,  
And follow them and meet me dreaming through  
The heavenward way once more to earth and you.

## THE GUEST

TIME runs so swiftly when the heart is glad,  
    Let me be sometimes sad,  
    Lest the all-happy noon  
Flash into eve and fade, and I grow old too soon.

Let me be sometimes sad that life may gain  
    Sweetness from sorrow's rain,  
    Nor bask till day be done,  
A scentless blossom, shrivelling in a cloudless sun.

For broken hearts to riper wisdom wake  
    Than hearts that never break,  
    And from their anguish flows  
The joy that tearless laughter seeks but never knows.

Since sorrows are life's winters, in our primes  
    If we be sad sometimes,  
    At last, one winter more,  
Age comes but as a guest that stayed with us before.

The heart renews its youth when griefs are past,  
    And age so comes, at last,  
    Like some remembered pain  
That shall but come and go, and leave us young  
    again.

## THE DREAMER

NIGHT is the lord of our birth, and lord of our death  
he shall be:

We are visions born of a sleep, as mists are born of  
the sea.

And the hand we press, the face we know, and the  
voice that replies,

The folly and sin of the fool, the wisdom and work of  
the wise,

The world that echoes about us with ripple of laugh-  
ter and song,

With music and shoutings of triumph, with wailing  
of sorrow and wrong,

And all that the happy enjoy and the wretched have  
toiled for in vain,  
All the good that we lose and the little good that we  
gain—

Are nothing, or will be nothing when, sighing fare-  
wells, we embark  
And return to the void, or are blown to some isle of  
new life in the dark.

Here, we are only the dreams of a slumber disturbed  
by our tears ;  
The sounds of our lives are as noises the Dreamer but  
dreams that he hears—

Unreal, confused and fantastic, they touch his com-  
passion at most  
As the weariful cries of the wind when it wanders all  
night like a ghost—



And all that is sweetest and dearest, and all that is  
fairest and best  
Seems but more fancied and fabled and more of a  
dream than the rest.

Ah ! let us live, let us die—all's one when the night  
shall have flown !  
We, who can wrangle and reason and dream we have  
dreams of our own,

We—with our pride and our meanness, with self the  
crowned king in our courts,  
And Mammon our god in the highest—are less than  
the least of our thoughts :

For the world of the Dreamer remains, and even the  
things that we seem  
By the might and the magic of labour to fashion and  
build in his dream

Will remain, when ourselves shall have gone and the  
dream-lives now lying dumb  
And dim in the brain of the Sleeper—his dreams of  
the years to come—

Are here to inherit the work of our hands and to  
struggle and fret  
For the pleasures and honours that we have forgotten,  
and they shall forget.

And the Dreamer?—Oh, heart, if our knowledge  
were knowing, our seeing but sight,  
We might know the Unknown that is dreaming and  
dreams us here out of the night,

And if there shall yet be an end of his sleep and the  
visions he makes,  
And whether he then will recall us, remembering his  
dreams when he wakes.

## ENOUGH

MEN there be who lose their days  
Toiling after empty praise,  
All they do they count as vain  
Should the world their work disdain ;  
If I hear but praise from thee,  
That is praise enough for me.

Shall I flatter high or low  
Fearful lest I make a foe ?  
Shall I sorrow without end  
For the falseness of a friend ?—  
If I win but love from thee,  
That is love enough for me.

Other worlds afar may rise  
Somewhere under other skies,  
Other worlds and fairer still—  
Sail and seek them they that will !  
Wheresoe'er I walk with thee  
There is world enough for me.

Wiser men than I may say  
Heaven is high and far away,  
Or may prove with reasonings rare  
Heaven is neither here nor there ;  
Here where thou art, I with thee,  
This is heaven enough for me.

## LIGHT

WHEN we have sought Him vainly elsewhere—  
Have closed our books and hushed our idle prayer,  
    Too weary and heart-sore  
    To seek Him any more—

And, loving yet our human kindred, go,  
Forgetting self, to work with them, nor know  
    By lonely paths benign  
    We reach the height divine :

Then, mid the living world where He hath wrought,  
In some chance word, or thought, or glimpse of  
    thought,  
    When all our search is past,  
    We may see God at last.

## A SONG OF SHADOWS

THE city is weird with shadows,  
    In the shine of a sunny day  
You may see them darken the pavements—  
    Furtive, and hushed, and grey,  
They crouch by the brooding houses,  
    They flit through the streets below :  
Every man has his shadow  
    That follows him to and fro.

And still when the day is sunless  
    They haunt the heart of the din,  
They dance at the heels of pleasure,  
    They run before folly and sin,  
Love, and honour, and beauty  
    They follow without a sound—

If the sun shine out but a moment  
You may see them darken the ground.

The city is weird with shadows,  
And fear or thought of them lies  
On pallid and weary faces,  
In hungry and wistful eyes,  
In brains that madden with sorrow,  
In hearts that sadden and break—  
Shadows of day and darkness  
Nor sun nor moon ever make.

Heedless each of the other,  
We people the crowded way,  
We are shadows born of the daylight  
And pass and fade with the day,  
And the glory and gold we garner,  
What is it when all is done?—  
Every man has his shadow,  
Though he walk in the shade or the sun.

## RECOMPENSE

THROUGH day and dark our years go by,  
And youth is sweet with dreams that die ;  
In winter's wistful sunset gleams  
    Like ghosts they haunt us from the dead ;  
But Time, that took away my dreams,  
    Has given me you instead.

Though youth must pass and none can say  
The hour it left him or the day,  
Though Time shall take our joys, in sooth,  
    Who brings us joy again but He ?  
And when he took away my youth  
    He gave your love to me.



## THE HAUNTED CITY

SOME heart's remembrance and regret  
    Fill every street with life profound :  
This corner where of old we met  
    To me has since been hallowed ground ;  
I never pass in sun or rain  
Now, but I meet you here again.

We cannot go from where we dwell  
    And leave behind no lingering trace ;  
Where in the past our shadow fell  
    A shadow of us haunts the place ;  
Returning now, ourselves may there  
Disturb some ghost of what we were.

The stones are thrilled by many a tread  
That leaves no footprint where it strays ;  
Shades of the living and the dead  
In silence throned the noisy ways :  
Here where I meet in shower or shine  
Your ghost, you haply meet with mine.

The air has sounds we cannot hear,  
Is dim with shapes that none can see ;  
Though dear the living voice, and dear  
The sight of living faces be,  
With kindlier yearnings yet we greet  
The friends we see not when we meet.

## RETURNING

SPRING pipes an airy measure

That only he can play :

I caught its echo on the hill

This morning while the world was still

And the dreamy hollows began to fill

With a laughing rumour of day.

The hours of sleep are over,

The wintry night is past ;

Spring pipes his joyance far and near

And hope awakes in hearts that hear,

As the bud and leaf and bloom o' the year

Shall wake to his calling at last.

Adown through greening valleys,

Up over hill and wold—

Oh, youth and joy and love are met

In every note his lips beget !

And the world shall hear and follow him yet,

And forget it is growing old.

## 'TWIXT DAWN AND DAY

If you were gone, and any anodyne  
Could drown in deep forgetfulness benign  
All thought of all things past,  
Until, at last,  
I had forgotten too  
Even the dearer memory of you—

In some dim hour betwixt the dawn and day,  
When I awoke to feel how bleak and grey  
My life without you spread,  
Then from the dead  
Those memories would upstart  
And one—the thought of you would break my heart.

And passing thus, could lapse of day and year  
Keep me still distant from you there as here ?  
Nay, for remembering so  
Were hence to go  
Back through the years a space  
And where we parted make our meeting place.

## UNFORGOTTEN

LAST night in some dim corner of my brain,  
The while I slept, there woke a thought of thee  
That lit my sleep; for though no more I see  
Or hear thee, and no more may share my pain  
And pleasure with thee, in my heart remain  
Old words of our lost friendship that to me  
Are dear and sacred still, as things must be  
That have been and can never be again:

Dear as the boyhood's hopes to which we cleave  
No longer—ah, no longer fancy led!  
Dear as the dreams the looms of Memory weave  
With many a lost and half-remembered thread;  
Sacred as those last kisses that we leave  
On the unknowing faces of our dead.

## A LAST TRIBUTE

(W. T. A. Died 1895)

BEAR him away in silence to his rest.

The world knows nothing of the fight he fought,

The patient toil to no fruition brought ;

Fold the white hands upon the quiet breast,

Bear him away in silence to his rest :

Rest he at least has won.

No victor's wreath may deck the turf above,

No crown was his for all his labour done—

Only our love.

Lavish your bays, O world, on lesser brows !

He came to your high places, staunch, elate,

Too proud of soul to stoop to any gate



That fool or knave may enter if he bows :  
Lavish your bays, O world, on lesser brows  
That bend to your commands !  
Better, than thus to cringe and crawl above,  
To fail and pass, no guerdon in his hands—  
Only our love.

Greater is work than wage, and love than fame.  
The world to many idols still shall turn  
And worship those that take, not those that  
earn,  
The while he sleeps and most forget his name:  
Greater is work than wage, and love than fame.  
So leave him—earth to earth,  
The peace of heaven about him and above,  
And with him ever all we have of worth—  
Only our love.

## YOUTH

YOUTH being gone, but not the dreams of youth,  
Life has lost nothing of its earlier fire:  
The pale star, newly risen, fades not quite  
As the dusk deepens round it into night  
But shines with gathering light and mounts the  
higher.

Age is but youth's husk if it still enfold  
Within it that glad heart of hope and truth  
Whose youth, outlasting youth,  
Can keep us young when years have made us old.

What though our hopes be stronger than our  
hands

And we have followed many a dream in vain ?

Dearer is that we never gained than all  
We garnered ; and with Hope's clear clarion call  
    Hushed on the height, our youth begins to wane  
And we grow old who else had time defied,  
    And, growing old, endure no longer then,  
        But leave our lives, as men  
Tired with long travel lay their loads aside.

If we had faith in death we should have faith  
    In life, and age could touch our hearts no more ;  
The sorrow-haunted world, whose restless moan  
Yearns saddening up to heaven like the lone  
    Long surge of waters on a barren shore,  
Would laugh and labour with a heart at rest  
    And pass unfaltering, knowing, strangely wise,  
        Though sweet this life that dies,  
It is not all—it is not even best.

Printed by  
BALLANTYNE, HANSON & Co.  
London & Edinburgh





UC SOUTHERN REGIONAL LIBRARY FACILITY



AA 000 614 976 9

